



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/653,681	09/02/2003	Ken-Shwo Dai	U 014798-3	5680
7590	01/31/2005			
Ladas & Parry 26 West 61st Street New York, NY 10023			EXAMINER FETTEROLF, BRANDON J	
			ART UNIT 1642	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 01/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/653,681	DAI, KEN-SHWO
	Examiner Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD	Art Unit 1642

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 1-28 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____

Dai, Ken-Shwo
Pending Claims: 1-28

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-3, as specifically drawn to an isolated polypeptide, classified in class 530, subclass 300, 350.
(Upon election of Group I, the applicant must choose ONE polypeptide SEQ ID NO from those listed in Claim 1 as each SEQ ID NO is a distinct invention requiring separate searches, NOT a species.)
- II. Claims 4-11, as specifically drawn to an isolated nucleic acid, classified in class 536, subclass 23.1.
(Upon election of Group II, the applicant must choose ONE nucleic acid SEQ ID NO from those listed in Claim 4 as each SEQ ID NO is a distinct invention requiring separate searches, NOT a species.)
- III. Claim 12, as specifically drawn to an antibody, classified in class 530, subclass 387.1.
(Upon election of Group III, the applicant must choose ONE polypeptide SEQ ID NO from those listed in Claim 1 as each SEQ ID NO is a distinct invention requiring separate searches, NOT a species.)
- IV. Claims 13 in part and 27-28, as specifically drawn to a method of diagnosing a disease associated with a deficiency of an ARL gene in a mammal comprising detecting a polypeptide, classified in class 435, subclass 7.1.
(Upon election of Group IV, the applicant must choose ONE polypeptide SEQ ID NO from those listed in Claim 1 as each SEQ ID NO is a distinct invention requiring separate searches, NOT a species.)

V. Claims 13 in part and 14-26, as specifically drawn to a method of diagnosing a disease associated with a deficiency of an ARL gene in a mammal comprising detecting a nucleic acid, classified in class 435, subclass 6.
(Upon election of Group V, the applicant must choose ONE nucleic acid SEQ ID NO from those listed in Claim 4 as each SEQ ID NO is a distinct invention requiring separate searches, NOT a species.)

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The invention of Group II is related to the invention of Group I by virtue of the fact that the DNA codes for the protein. The DNA molecule has utility for the recombinant production of the protein in a host cell. Although the DNA and the protein are related, since the DNA encodes the specifically claimed protein, they are distinct inventions because the protein product can be made by other and materially distinct processes, such as purification from the natural source. Further, DNA can be used for processes other than the production of protein, such as nucleic acid hybridization assays.

Furthermore, searching the inventions of Groups I and II together would impose a serious search burden. In the instant case, the search of the polypeptides and polynucleotides are not coextensive. The inventions of Groups I and II have a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications. In cases such as this one where descriptive sequence information is provided, the sequences are searched in appropriate databases. There is a search burden also in the non-patent literature. Prior to the concomitant isolation and expression of the sequences of interest there may be journal articles devoted solely to polypeptides which would not have described the polynucleotide. Similarly, there may have been "classical" genetics papers which had no knowledge of the polypeptide but spoke to the gene. Searching, therefore is not coextensive. In addition, the polypeptide claims include polypeptides with modified amino acids of the amino acid sequences identified. This search requires an extensive analysis of the art retrieved in a sequence search and will require an in-depth analysis of technical literature. As such, it would be burdensome to search the inventions of Groups I and II.

The antibody of Group III includes, for example, IgG molecules which comprise 2 heavy and 2 light chains containing constant and variable regions, and including framework regions which act as a scaffold for the 6 complementarily determining regions (CDRs). Polypeptides, such as the antibody of Group III which are composed of amino acids, and polynucleotides of Group II, which are composed of nucleic acids, are structurally distinct molecules; any relationship between a polynucleotide and polypeptide is dependent upon the information provided by nucleic acid sequence open reading frame as it corresponds to the primary amino acid sequence of the encoded polypeptide. Therefore, the antibody and polynucleotide are patentably distinct.

The antibody and polynucleotide inventions have a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications. Furthermore, searching the inventions of Group II and Group III would impose a serious search burden since a search of the polynucleotide of Group II would not be used to determine the patentability of an antibody of Group III, and vice-versa.

While the inventions of both Group I and Group III are polypeptides, in this instance the polypeptide of Group I is a single chain molecule, whereas the polypeptide of Group III encompasses antibodies including IgG which comprises 2 heavy and 2 light chains containing constant and variable regions, and including framework regions which act as a scaffold for the 6 complementarily determining regions (CDR) that function to bind an epitope. Thus the polypeptide of Group I and the antibody of Group III are structurally distinct molecules; any relationship between a polypeptide of Group I and an antibody of Group III is dependent upon the correlation between the scope of the polypeptides that the antibody binds and the scope of the antibodies that would be generated upon immunization with the polypeptide. Therefore, the polypeptide and antibody are patentably distinct.

Furthermore, searching the inventions of Group I and Group III would impose a serious search burden. The inventions have separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications. A polypeptide and an antibody which binds to the polypeptide require different searches. An amino acid sequence search of the full-length protein is necessary for a determination of novelty and unobviousness of the protein. However, such a search is not required to identify the antibodies of Group III. Furthermore, antibodies which bind to an epitope of a polypeptide of Group I may be known even if a polypeptide of Group I is novel. In addition, the technical literature search for the polypeptide of Group I and the antibody of Group III are not coextensive,

e.g., antibodies may be characterized in the technical literature prior to discovery of or sequence of their binding target.

The inventions of Groups IV and V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the specification does not disclose that their methods would be used together. The method for methods of diagnosing a disease associated with a deficiency of an ARL gene in a mammal are unrelated as the comprise distinct steps and utilize different products which demonstrates that each method has a different mode of operation. Each invention performs this function using structurally and functionally divergent material. Moreover, the methodology and materials necessary for detection, treatment, and modulation differ significantly for each of the materials. For detecting the nucleic acid, hybridization may be used. For detecting a protein, an antibody may be used. Therefore, each method is divergent in materials and steps. For these reasons the inventions of Groups IV and V are patentably distinct.

Furthermore, the distinct steps and products require separate and distinct searches. The inventions of Groups IV and V have a separate status in the art as shown by their different classifications. As such, it would be burdensome to search the inventions of Groups IV and V.

The invention of Group II and the method of Group IV are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (I) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (ii) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product [see MPEP § 806.05(h)]. In the instant case the antibody product as claimed can be used in a materially different process such as affinity chromatography.

The invention of Group III and the method of Group V are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (I) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (ii) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that

product [see MPEP § 806.05(h)]. In the instant case the nucleic acid product as claimed can be used in a materially different process such as to encode a protein.

Because the inventions are distinct for the reasons given above, have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, and the search required for each group is not required for other groups because each group requires a different non-patent literature search due to each group comprising different products and/or method steps, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Note:

The examiner has required restriction between product and process claims. Where applicant elects claims directed to the product, and a product claim is subsequently found allowable, withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the allowable product claim will be rejoined in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04. Process claims that depend from or otherwise include all the limitations of the patentable product will be entered as a matter of right if the amendment is presented prior to final rejection or allowance, whichever is earlier. Amendments submitted after final rejection are governed by 37 CFR 1.116; amendments submitted after allowance are governed by 37 CFR 1.312.

In the event of rejoinder, the requirement for restriction between the product claims and the rejoined process claims will be withdrawn, and the rejoined process claims will be fully examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. Thus, to be allowable, the rejoined claims must meet all criteria for patentability including the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 101, 102, 103, and 112. Until an elected product claim is found allowable, an otherwise proper restriction requirement between product claims and process claims may be maintained. Withdrawn process claims that are not commensurate in scope with an allowed product claim will not be rejoined. See “Guidance on Treatment of Product and Process Claims in light of *In re Ochiai*, *In re Brouwer* and 35 U.S.C. § 103(b),” 1184 O.G. 86 (March 26, 1996). Additionally, in order to retain the right to rejoinder in accordance with the above policy, Applicant is advised that the process claims should be amended during prosecution

either to maintain dependency on the product claims or to otherwise include the limitations of the product claims. **Failure to do so may result in a loss of the right to rejoinder.**

Further, note that the prohibition against double patenting rejections of 35 U.S.C. 121 does not apply where the restriction requirement is withdrawn by the examiner before the patent issues. See MPEP § 804.01.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD whose telephone number is (571)-272-2919. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Siew can be reached on 571-272-0787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD
Examiner
Art Unit 1642

BF


GARY NICKOL
PRIMARY EXAMINER